

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NSC-05 /065 W
-----127002 121753Z /46

R 121545Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5345
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 07755

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: LONG-TERM DEFENSE
PROGRAM - NEXT STEPS

REF: (A) STATE 189527 DTG 102238Z AUG 77, (B) USNATO
7082 DTG 220852Z JUL 77

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1. WE APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S REPLY (REF A) TO OUR
ANALYSIS (REF B) OF NEXT STEPS IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE
LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, AND SEE ADVANTAGE IN PROVIDING
A MAJOR PORTION OF REF A, SPECIFICALLY PARAGRAPHS 2
THROUGH 8, TO THE EWG NOW. THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS
9 THROUGH 12 COULD BE PROVIDED LATER, IF APPROPRIATE, WHEN
MORE FULLY DEVELOPED. THE LANGUAGE OF PARAGRAPHS 2-8
STRIKES US AS MOST APPPOSITE, PARTICULARLY PARAGRAPH 3.

2. WE PROVIDE IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW, FOR WASHINGTON'S CON-
CURRENCE, THE TEXT OF A PROPOSED LETTER TO EWG CHAIRMAN
PANSA FROM THE US EWG REP (DEFAD LEGERE). WE ARE CONSCIOUS
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OF THE NEED TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF TOO HEAVY A US HAND
IN THE EXERCISE, AND HAVE COUCHED THE INTRODUCTORY SENT-
ENCES ACCORDINGLY. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO
SEND THE LETTER IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER TO EWG CHAIRMAN PANSA:

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

IT MAY BE THAT YOU AND OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE EWG WILL BE INTERESTED IN A SUMMARY OF SOME WASHINGTON VIEWS THAT HAVE COME TO ME SINCE THE 15 JULY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP. I AM PASSING ON THESE THOUGHTS SIMPLY TO KEEP YOU AND THE EWG REPRESENTATIVES ABREAST OF THINKING IN MY CAPITAL, AND AM NOT UNDER ANY WASHINGTON INSTRUCTION TO MAKE, AT THIS TIME, ANY FORMAL NATIONAL INPUT ON THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM TO THE EWG. PASSING THESE VIEWS BY LETTER NOW SEEMED A MORE USEFUL PROCEDURE THAN OFFERING THEM AT THE SEPTEMBER EWG MEETING, WHEN WE SHALL BE CONCENTRATING ON THE TASK FORCE DIRECTORS' ORAL REPORTS.

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AT THE RISK OF OVERSIMPLIFICATION, WE SEE THE TWO MAJOR TASKS NOW AS THOSE OF (A) FLESHING OUT THE NINE EWG PROGRAMS AND (B) FACILITATING LATER NATIONAL AGREEMENT, AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, TO THE NINE PROGRAMS.

THE ESSENTIALLY NEW FEATURE DIFFERENTIATING THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM FROM PREVIOUS MAJOR NATO INITIATIVES IS THAT IT IS TO BE AN AGREED DOCUMENT REFLECTING NATIONAL INTENTIONS, BOTH FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FOR SUPPORT OF NATO COMMON PROGRAMS. WHEN ADOPTED BY MINISTERS IT WILL BE AN ACTION DOCUMENT, NOT A CHALLENGE DOCUMENT.

CLEARLY, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NINE PROGRAMS WILL BE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MAJOR FACTOR IN THEIR ACCEPTABILITY TO NATIONS. THE UNITED STATES IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT ON SUBSTANCE, AND WOULD EXPECT OTHER NATIONS TO DO THE SAME.

HOWEVER, THE DEGREE TO WHICH TASK FORCES CONSULT NATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL ALSO BE A KEY FACTOR IN ACCEPTABILITY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE COMPRESSED TIME FRAME FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROGRAM. WHILE WE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSTANCE TO PRECEDE CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTABILITY, IN THIS CASE WE HOPE FOR EARLY AND CONTINUED CONSULTATION BETWEEN TASK FORCES AND NATIONS.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE PRIOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN TASK FORCES AND NATIONS, THE EWG IN MARCH 1978 WOULD FACE THE VERY DIFFICULT TASK OF ACCOMMODATING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO NATIONAL PROGRAM DECISIONS, LEAVING LITTLE OR NO TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF BALANCE AMONG PROGRAMS OR EVEN OF INITIAL ADEQUACY OF PROGRAMS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ASCRIBE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE INTERFACE OF TASK FORCES AND NATIONS FOR INFORMATION (E.G., INFORMATION ON CURRENT AND PROJECTED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AND THEIR COST),

ASSISTANCE, AND CONSULTATION.

WE THINK THE SEPTEMBER ORAL REPORTS BY TASK FORCE DIRECTORS SHOULD COVER INTER ALIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORKING WITH COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON LIAISON OR INTERFACE AMONG TASK FORCES.

SIMILARLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EWG SHOULD INCLUDE IN THE DECEMBER INTERIM REPORT FOR MINISTERS ANY INFORMATION FROM TASK FORCES ON THEIR PLANS FOR FINAL CONSULTATION

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 07755

WITH NATIONS, PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF TASK FORCE REPORTS ON 1 MARCH. THE DECEMBER STATUS REPORT SHOULD, OF COURSE, INCLUDE ANY POINTS ON WHICH MINISTERIAL VIEWS ARE DESIRED. ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO FORWARD INPUT STATUS REPORTS FROM TASK FORCE DIRECTORS WITH THE OVERALL EWG REPORT OUR INFORMAL VIEW IS THAT THEY COULD BE USEFULLY APPENDED AS BACKGROUND.

I AM PROVIDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO EACH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EWG. IF YOU THINK IT APPROPRIATE, THE EWG SECRETARY MIGHT PROVIDE COPIES TO TASK FORCE DIRECTORS AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION. END TEXT.GLITMAN

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